

Indiana State Representative Carolene Mays

Dear Friends:

The 2004 short session of the Indiana General Assembly has now reconvened. We will discuss a number of important items, including our continuing efforts to provide Hoosier taxpayers with real property tax relief.



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and suggestions in the section provided.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about state government.

Carolene Mays

Helping Hoosier Families

Property Tax Relief

The Indiana General Assembly has passed a series of reforms that help build on the tax restructuring that took place in 2002. The reforms contained in the package approved by the legislature will provide nearly \$500 million in property tax cuts for homes, businesses and farms.

The deadline to file for the homestead credit and other credits and deductions was extended, which will help 95,000 Hoosier homeowners receive state property tax relief. Counties will be able to offer installment payment plans to help taxpayers with larger bills, and penalties for late payments can be waived. Property taxpayers will have up to 45 days to appeal a bill.

While these provisions will help ease the burden on property taxpayers, I am disappointed we were unable to include additional protections that were approved by the House.

The House of Representatives reforms would have given homeowners and farmers a larger share of property tax relief, provided additional relief for senior citizens and helped owners of older homes who have been harmed by the reassessment.

While these provisions were killed in the Indiana Senate, House Democrats will pursue these reforms when we reconvene this month. The bills outlining our proposals have been filed and are ready for consideration.

The General Assembly's actions to date have demonstrated a bipartisan understanding that more must be done to help taxpayers, particularly those who own homes and farms. We must continue to protect their interests throughout the 2004 session.



Property Tax Relief Highlights

***Extension of filing deadline for homestead credit and other deductions**

***Counties could offer installment payment plans to taxpayers**

***Counties may waive penalties for late payments**

***Allow 45 days for taxpayers to appeal bills**

***Safeguards to limit local government property tax increases**

Please complete the survey and return it to me or go to www.in.gov/H94 to complete the survey online. A second person of your household may respond in the second set of answers.

2004 Legislative Survey

1. Should Indiana's property tax system be abolished, with corresponding increases in other taxes to ensure that critical local services (fire, library services, etc.) be continued? 1. ☐yes ☐no
☐yes ☐no
2. Should local units of government be placed under a hard freeze that will limit their ability to increase property taxes? 2. ☐yes ☐no
☐yes ☐no
3. Do you believe Indiana should enter into agreements with other states that would allow them to purchase prescription drugs in bulk? 3. ☐yes ☐no
☐yes ☐no
4. Predatory lending takes place when mortgage brokers make loans with unreasonable terms, higher interest rates and/or high fees that people are unlikely to be able to pay back, which often places them at risk of losing their home through foreclosure. Is this an issue in your community? 4. ☐yes ☐no
☐yes ☐no
5. Do you feel the state should place additional restrictions on predatory lending? 5. ☐yes ☐no
☐yes ☐no
6. Should the state allow cameras at intersections to issue violations to reckless drivers? 6. ☐yes ☐no
☐yes ☐no
7. In order to reduce jail overcrowding and corrections costs, should judges be given greater options to use community corrections and in-home detention programs rather than mandatory sentences? 7. ☐yes ☐no
☐yes ☐no
8. Should "pull tab" gambling machines or other slot machines be allowed at Indiana's horse racing tracks and off-track betting parlors? 8. ☐yes ☐no
☐yes ☐no

Comments:



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Please place
your stamp
here.

Stay
In
Touch

With The
**Indiana House of
Representatives**
and with
Rep. Carolene Mays

Email Updates

Would you like to receive email updates with news from the Statehouse? You are always encouraged to contact me directly via email, but I would also be happy to send you news from time to time about what is going on at the Statehouse.

To receive updates, sign-up on my website at www.in.gov/H94. It's a simple way to stay informed about the issues that impact our state and our district.

Online

The official web site for the State of Indiana is www.in.gov. This is a good place to start if you are interested in information about Indiana and various government services.

Additionally, each representative has a web site with information on his or her background, education and contact information. My site is at www.in.gov/H94. There you may also learn about bills that I have filed, read past newsletters and apply to become a page or an intern.

In Person

Sessions of the Indiana General Assembly are open to the public. You can observe the House of Representatives yourself, seeing our democratic system at work. No need to schedule an appointment—you're always welcome. Both the House and Senate chambers have visitors' galleries on the fourth floor from which you can view proceedings.

**Whichever method you prefer, I hope that
you will keep informed and stay involved.**



**Representative
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